

# Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



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## the inside Scoop

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## Air Power Quote of the Week

"Sometimes I feel a strange exhilaration up here which seems to come from something beyond the mere stimulus of flying. It is a feeling of belonging to the sky, of owning and being owned – if only for a moment – by the air I breathe."

—Guy Murchie



Cunningham



Fooshee



Luna-Ruiz

## Three promoted below the zone

Compiled from staff reports

Three airmen were recently informed they would be promoted to senior airman under the highly competitive below-the-zone program.

Airmen who have displayed increased responsibility are considered, and their selection not only indicates they are the best of the best, it allows them to sew on that new stripe six months early.

Airmen first class Joyce Cunningham, 47th Security Forces installation entry control-

ler, Alfonso Luna-Ruiz, 47th Security Forces Pass and Registration section leader, and Scott Fooshee, controller for the 47th Operations Support Squadron Radar Approach Control, were notified June 15 that they would sew on the rank of senior airman early.

Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Enyeart, 47th Flying Training Wing command chief master sergeant, said the selectees were hard-working and deserving.

"If you get an opportunity, please congratulate these fine airmen," he said.



## Base parents bring children to work today

By Airman Basic  
Timothy Stein

Staff writer

Some Laughlin children will be with their parents at work today as part of Bring Your Child to Work Day, a combination of April's nationwide Take Our Daughters to Work and May's Take Our Son to Work days.

The event has been a popular one throughout the years and has proven beneficial to children wanting to know more about their parents' jobs, according to Sabrina Pena, family support center family life educator.

"The intent of the program is for parents to show their children what mom and dad do when they are away from home every day," said Pena. "[It helps] expand children's understanding of the type of work adults perform."

Laughlin combined the two days in June so children won't miss school and so they only visit the workplace once, minimizing the distraction they might cause. Commanders determined the times children can be at their units, as well as on the appropriate age for

See 'Child,' page 4

## Trainee dies at Lackland Air Force Base

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE – Airman Basic Darryll M. Logans, 20, a trainee assigned to the 331st Training Squadron here, died after collapsing during routine physical conditioning June 14.

An ambulance transported Logans to Lackland's Wilford Hall Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 7:47 a.m.

Logans, from Yigo, Guam, was in the fourth week of a six-week basic training program.

An autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death, and an Air Force safety board will convene to review the circumstances regarding Logans's death.

Logan's death is the second at Lackland in the past two years.

# Commanders' Corner



**By Col. Herbert Foret**  
47th Flying Training Wing  
vice commander

## Laughlin great place to live and work

We members of Team Laughlin are indeed fortunate to live, work and serve our country at Laughlin Air Force Base for many reasons.

Of course, we could list all the attractions and the activities that make Laughlin, Del Rio and the surrounding area so appealing to so many of us. But, I submit that Laughlin is what it is because of the intangibles.

In my view, one of the most important intangibles is the sense of community and the sense of family we share.

Our vision remains, "A military and civilian team conducting the most respected aviation training operation in the world." We are able to realize that vision because we work together and support each other — just as any successful team. We devote ourselves to the mission, our base and our community.

Community involvement exemplifies that devotion which makes our team so strong. Our most recent history highlights our response to the devastating flood of 1998, during which the entire community bonded

together to respond to the tragedy and rebuild our community. That spirit of community involvement is visible in all we do.

Team Laughlin members participate in blood drives, food drives, walk-a-thons, the Combined Federal Campaign, local school committees, Adopt a Highway, religious involvements, honor guard details, bowl-a-thons, Club 180, and contribute more than 20,000 hours of volunteer support each year.

The spirit of community involvement is very contagious. A leader

never asks his people to do something he or she wouldn't visibly support. Simply stated, we generally support what we value. What we value we spend quality time with, and time is one of the most precious gifts we can devote to a particular cause.

The 47th Flying Training Wing recognizes our volunteers through numerous formal processes such as the wing recognition award for volunteer of the quarter and year. But, I submit that it's not the recognition that drives a volunteer, but the sense of contribution and accomplishment.

## Top Three Talk



**By Master Sgt. James Donnett**  
47th Support Group first sergeant

## Informed airmen make good decisions

Confucius wrote: "A wise man learns from his experience; a wiser man learns from the experience of others."

Team XL produces the world's best pilots. We also continually develop new airmen into tomorrow's enlisted leaders. A critical element of success for new airmen is obtaining information and experience via downward communication. Obviously there are many types of downward communication, but I will discuss three: training, feedback and mentoring.

Job training has always been a key to Air Force readiness. Never has it been more vital than today. New airmen depend on trainers and supervisors to provide information and training to accomplish mission-essential tasks. Supervisors

should provide airmen with the information necessary to assume critical duties in their absence.

This communication can be in the form of lecture, informal discussion, practical demonstration, etc. Supervisors who feel the shop cannot operate in their absence may be failing to properly inform subordinates on mission goals and tasks; this could hinder

readiness. Well-informed airmen provide a unit with a wealth of talent and ensure unit flexibility.

Feedback is a supervisor's best tool to guide new airmen. Supervisors should never assume a

new airman is knowledgeable about a policy, Air Force instruction, custom, or task. Instead, take a

few moments during feedback sessions to explain key processes and provide troops with information to gain experience. All supervisors and airmen should obtain a copy of Air Force Pamphlet 36-2241, Promotion Fitness Examination Study Guide, and become familiar with the content. By reading this informative pamphlet everyone will be aware of

***"Supervisors who feel the shop cannot operate in their absence may be failing to properly inform subordinates on mission goals and tasks."***

**See 'Decisions,' page 3**

**Col. Jack Egginton**  
Commander

**1st Lt. Dawnita Parkinson**  
Public affairs chief

**Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit**  
Editor

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Submissions can be e-mailed to:  
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[reginald.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil](mailto:reginald.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil)

***"Excellence — not our goal, but our standard."***

— 47th FTW motto

**'Decisions,' from page 2**

some key processes that affect enlisted members. During feedback sessions cover essential elements of Air Force forms 931 and 932, Performance Feedback worksheets; also, tailor the session to the individual and Air Force needs. This is preventive maintenance and results in experienced future leaders and aids in mentoring.

Downward communication constantly takes place in the form of formal and informal mentoring. Airmen observe supervisor's actions in a myriad of situations and later apply lessons learned. Supervisors must continue to lead by example, strive for earned respect and maintain Air Force core values. Leaders demonstrate commitment to the Air Force by involvement in the community. Details, ceremonies, committees, etc., are inherent to military life. These things ensure our way of life and serve to improve the Laughlin and local community.

Supervisors must continually communicate a willingness to assist subordinates with any personal or professional problem before a situation becomes detrimental to a troop or the mission. Bottom line, always communicate that we must take care of our own.

Informed airmen make good decisions. Leaders at all levels must ensure the downward communication process provides all airmen with the information necessary to become future enlisted leaders.

**Honor guard: ceremonial guardsmen**

**By Chief Master Sgt. Aphrodite Kafka**  
*366th Support Group*

MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho (ACCNS) – It's hard to believe a year has passed. I'm not sure there was one clear reason why I joined the base honor guard for the first time in my 24-year career.

If I had to narrow it down, it may be for the sense of accomplishment, pride and duty – I've experienced all three in one way or another.

I've always wanted to be a member but never made that decision until last February. So I went to practice one day. The people there didn't know what to expect from a chief master sergeant. I'm sure there were thoughts of disbelief. "Why would a chief want to be a member? She'll never make the team." I almost thought I couldn't make it myself.

Several young airmen helped this old chief make the team. We'd practice on Wednesday afternoons and a few Saturday mornings since I needed remedial training.

First, I had to learn a new way of doing facing movements – but my feet just didn't want to cooperate. Next, they told me to do facing movements with an M-1 rifle, which was hard because I had no upper body strength to handle the weapon. A young airman told me to go to the gym and develop "Popeye arms." I got my share of blisters

with the rifle, and it took a lot of coordination to do two things at once.

After several months of training and frustration, the qualification day came. I had to complete a certain sequence and be evaluated by other honor guard members. The pressure was on, but I qualified. Yes, it was an accomplishment for me, but I think everyone who helped me felt a sense of accomplishment.

I also had a feeling of pride. This became clear when I did my first real-world performance. A fellow chief master sergeant was retiring, and I helped retire the colors at a retreat ceremony and present the flag to him in honor of his dedicated service to the nation. I was proud to present that flag to him. Not only as a member of the honor guard but as a fellow chief master sergeant.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the sense of duty I feel as a member of the honor guard.

At one funeral, after the 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps," I had to present the flag to a grieving widow. I was nervous, but at the end of the funeral, the family thanked me.

It has been an emotional roller coaster this past year as a member of the base honor guard. I wouldn't trade this experience. As the honor guard creed says, "Representing every member, past and present, of the United States Air Force, I vow to stand sharp, crisp, and motionless, for I am a ceremonial guardsman."

**Actionline**  
298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal

reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



**Col. Jack Egginton**  
47 FTW commander

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-6313
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170

**Laughlin kudos**

I live in the Big Bend National Park area, and for the past 13 years I have been visiting Laughlin for medical appointments. During this time, I have always found Laughlin to be one of the best maintained bases I have ever been on – bordering on

pristine. Ditto for the guest quarters and other facilities too numerous to mention. Also, I have never dealt with a single rude or out-of-line person, neither military or civilian. Even "overhearing" various conversations in offices, clinics, the base exchange, etc., all are positive, seemingly high morale at all levels!

My most recent visit, May 30-31,

was primarily for my wife and to see if I could have an ear looked at during a walk-in at the clinic. I expected only about five minutes for a doctor's evaluation for my ear problem. Instead, Dr. Jay Kennedy and Senior Airman Timothy Lantgen spent more than an hour diagnosing and treating my ear and gave me two prescriptions. I was really impressed!

Further, Dr. Jay Kennedy should teach classes on public relations! He is a most pleasant man and doctor. Dr. Kennedy and Senior Airman Lantgen treated me like royalty! Since my retirement in September 1975, it's heartwarming to see the "Force" carrying on its traditions of excellence!  
–Retired Master Sgt. Larry Mitchell

# 'Best price' means big savings for Laughlin commissary shoppers

SAN ANTONIO – Putting the right products on the shelves at the price that delivers the biggest savings for commissary shoppers has always been one of the Defense Commissary Agency's goals.

Now, with access to item movement and pricing data collected from commissaries' front-end systems, as well as sales data from the private sector, the agency's Marketing Business Unit is delivering the goods.

"In the past, industry manufacturers and brokers had access to some of this data and occasionally shared it with DeCA if it was relevant to a sales presentation," explained Alan Flowers, a category manager in DeCA's Marketing Business Unit.

Now, with routine access to this information, DeCA buyers have a tool that allows them to de-

termine more accurately when the price offered is the best price and whether shoppers want the product.

"Scan data allows the DeCA buyer to make a direct comparison of DeCA prices with private-sector prices to determine if there is a savings for the commissary patron," said Flowers.

With results from the latest survey showing patron savings now at 29.2 percent, this best-price strategy is helping DeCA move closer to its goal of delivering 30 percent savings by fiscal 2002, as items within a category compete to maintain their places on commissary shelves.

"Items that demonstrate they are achieving a relative larger share of the category are items that we will continue to place on the shelf," said Flowers. "Those items that demonstrate a greatly

diminished patron appeal may be subject to a review – a process that could result in their removal from the category's assortment."

Winners in all of this are DeCA's patrons, who more consistently will find the products they're looking for on store shelves – and at prices that deliver true savings.

For more information on how you can save almost 30 cents on every dollar you spend on groceries "outside the gate," check out the new Web site at [www.commissaries.com.savings](http://www.commissaries.com.savings). These savings, worth \$2,300 a year for a family of four, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families. A valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries help the United States recruit and keep the best and the brightest men and women in the service of their country.

## Air Force ranks in top 100 companies for African American recruiting efforts

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – The Air Force ranked in the top 100 companies in both civilian and military hires for its commitment to recruit African American college graduates, according to a recent survey by The Black Collegian magazine on the hiring plans of the class of 2001 of America's major employers.

The Air Force placed 13th for its efforts to recruit African American students to active duty and 51st in its effort with civilian job hires under the PAL-ACE Acquire and COPPER CAP trainee programs. Other major companies making the list included General Motors, Marriott International, American Airlines, Eastman Chemical, Qualcomm, Hershey Foods, Telecordia Technologies, and Proctor and

Gamble.

The results of the survey were recently featured in the award-winning Second Semester Super Issue of The Black Collegian, said Elizabeth Kelly, personnel specialist in Civilian Career Management here.

This issue has a rich history of being a reliable predictor of the job climate for the immediate graduating class, she said.

The Black Collegian's top 100 employers survey examined major employers in industry, government, and business to determine where the jobs are, according to the magazine. The purpose of the survey was to provide current information that allows graduates of the class of 2001 to focus their searches on employers actively hiring.

47th Flying Training Wing commander. "They learn that what their parents do is important and rewarding. Hopefully, after they see the Air Force in action, we might get some new recruits in a few years."

For more information about Bring Your Child to Work Day events, call your supervisor or Sabrina Pena at 298-5899.

### 'Child,' from page 1

participation. Some units may only have a few hours out of the day, set aside for someone to bring in his or her children, Pena said.

"It is nice that kids get to see what their parents actually do for a living," said Col. Jack Egginton,

# Newsline

## Chapel holds gospel fest

The Laughlin Air Force Base Chapel will hold Gospel Fest, a Juneteenth celebration, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Hosea Butler at 298-4109.

## Retirement ceremony set

Tech. Sgt. Rob Poteat, 47th Communications Squadron, will retire from the Air Force Monday in a ceremony at 11 a.m. in the Fiesta Center.

For more information, call 2nd Lt. Darryl Buck at 298-4211.

## Mentoring program set

Laughlin's second NCO Mentorship Seminar is scheduled for Tuesday through June 28 at the Enlisted Heritage and Leadership Center.

The purpose of the program is to help staff sergeants who haven't attended professional military education in more than five years enhance and refresh their leadership skills through group interaction and discussion.

For those interested in attending the seminar, call Senior Master Sgt. Joey Walker at 298-5856.

## Advisory board to meet

Laughlin Air Force Base will host a Restoration Advisory Board meeting from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Wednesday at the Ramada Inn in Del Rio.

The RAB is a community member board that promotes community awareness and obtains constructive community comment on environmental restoration actions at the base.

The RAB facilitates communication and disseminates information about the cleanup program, while ensuring the diverse interests within the community are heard.

For more information, call Ramon Flores at 298-5746.

## Walk/run scheduled

A Warrior 5k Walk/Run is scheduled for June 29. Sign up begins at 6:30 a.m. in the XL Fitness Center parking lot. The event starts at 7 a.m.

For more information, call 298-5326 or 6464.

## Promotion ceremony set

An enlisted promotion ceremony is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. June 29 at Club Amistad.

For more information, call Master Sgt. James Donnett at 298-5068.

# Roche, Ryan speak about 2001 budget

By Staff Sgt. Amy Parr

*Air Force Print News*

WASHINGTON – Dr. James Roche, appearing before Congress for the first time as secretary of the Air Force, and Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, addressed the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense about the 2001 budget June 6.

During the hearing, they spoke of people, readiness, infrastructure and equipment.

“I’m happy to say this year we are making our recruitment goal, both in terms of quality and quantity,” Ryan said. “Our major challenge is retaining our best and brightest to stay with us for a career.”

While Ryan said there’s been a drop in readiness over the last few years, it has slowed down. Still, he said, more needs to be done to retain troops and improve or replace aging equipment and infrastructure.

An additional \$33 million in supplemental increases were requested this year for recruiting and retention programs. Ryan said re-enlistment bonuses have been used to retain people and keep them in the Air Force for second and third tours. Increases were also requested to address other personnel issues, like healthcare shortages and basic housing allowances.

While quality-of-life issues are important for attracting and retaining people, Ryan said quality of service was as well. Quality of service means giving airmen the tools to do their jobs.

“Quality of service is not just about equipment with which they operate, but the hangars and buildings and shops in which they must work,” he said. “We all know quality begets quality. And, as you know, we have underfunded our capital equipment and our infrastructure for too long, and we must turn the aging problem around.”

Roche said the Air Force is losing people mid-career and that problem needs to be addressed. Although he said the financial aspect of being in the military is improving, more improvement is needed, especially in terms of career planning and mentoring.

“[General Ryan and I] are both seized with the fact that we have an enormous amount of time and money [invested] in these very high-caliber people,” he said. “We can’t have them leave. And so we intend to make this a major effort for the Air Force in the next couple of years. Principally on retention, we believe that the force that retains will be the force that will attract.”

Although the United States has the highest quality force in the world, there are concerns for the future, according to Roche and Ryan. In joint written remarks, they said the future organization, concepts of operation and capabilities in consideration of the changing global security environment must be evaluated. The Air Force must recapitalize and modernize its force through emphasizing science and technology, improving partnerships with industry, expanding capabilities in space and becoming more efficient in all its efforts.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Friday, Border Eagle. Wednesday, this newspaper.  
 <http://www.af.mil/newspaper> 

## 3 x 10 ARMED FORCES



# Medical service corps offers career opportunities

For those interested in making a difference in the health care arena, opportunities await in the Air Force Medical Service Corps.

The corps is comprised of healthcare administrators responsible for managing and leading business activities in a variety of healthcare settings. Made up of approximately 1,100 officers, the corps specializes in human resources, financial management, group practice management, patient administration, logistics, contingency planning, facility management and information management and technology.

"We give significant responsibility to our officers, as they play a very important role in the day-to-day operations within our medical treatment facilities as well as nonhospital settings," said Col. Stephen L. Meigs, chief of the medical service corps.

Besides the traditional roles within a hospital or clinic, MSCs work in assignments that involve aeromedical evacuation, Tricare delivery, medical readiness and recruiting. They also serve in inspector, instructor and air staff positions.

Since the corps requires high standards, promo-

tion rates are among the highest in the Air Force. According to Meigs, there is a 90-percent promotion rate to the rank of major, 80 percent to lieutenant colonel and 55 percent to colonel.

Educational opportunities within the MSC are tremendously appealing as well. Each year, officers are competitively selected to attend military and civilian fellowships, which expand their knowledge base in their respective career fields. In addition, full-time Air Force-sponsored graduate degree programs are also offered to major universities across the country.

Those interested in becoming MSC officers must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- Must be commissioned before they reach age 40 and have fewer than 10 years of active-duty service by the time they meet the accession board.
- GMAT or GRE scores from an examination taken within the last five years are required for all applicants. Desirable minimum scores are 1000 on the GRE or 500 on the GMAT. Past applicants have questioned the need for such a score when they have already attained a master's degree.

According to Lt. Col. John C. Sell, associate director of the corps, "A master's degree awarded from one university does not necessarily make it equal to that from another university. The GMAT or GRE serves as a knowledge baseline and assists the accession board members when selecting new candidates."

■ Educational requirements are either a graduate degree in health care administration, hospital administration, public administration, business administration, business management, information system management, or equivalent, or an undergraduate major in accounting, business administration, computer science, information systems, economics, finance, health care administration, marketing, business management, public administration, clinical or health systems engineering, or other related business field.

For more information regarding the MSC career field, contact Lt. Col. John Sell at [john.sell@usafsg.bolling.af.mil](mailto:john.sell@usafsg.bolling.af.mil) or Maj. Cori Culver at [cori.culver@afpc.randolph.af.mil](mailto:cori.culver@afpc.randolph.af.mil).

(Courtesy of the Air Force Surgeon General Office)



Photo by Maj. Brian Hall

## To the rescue

A Wilford Hall Medical Center team hoists a heart-lung machine onto a civilian jet in Oakland, Calif., June 10. The team's mission to California was to transport a 2-year-old child to Stanford University for an emergency heart transplant operation.

2 x 2

UPSTAGERS

# 3 x 6 SAN MARCOS BAPTIST

**3 x 5 1/2 SATO TRAVEL**

## Air Force deploys team to help Houston flood victims

**By Sue Campbell**

*59th Medical Wing Public Affairs*

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE – A team of 87 people from the 59th Medical Wing at Wilford Hall Medical Center have provided care to more than 250 people since deploying a mobile hospital to Houston June 14.

Established as the 591st Expeditionary Medical Squadron (Deployed), the Air Force sent the 25-bed expeditionary medical support hospital to Houston when flooding caused by Tropical Storm Allison created a medical care shortage.

In the aftermath of the storm, which dropped nearly three feet of rain in and around the city, hospital capability was reduced by 1,700 beds and emergency rooms were overflowing with patients waiting up to 21 hours to be seen.

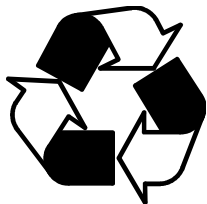
The 59th MDW responded by sending three busloads of people and 22 pallets of equipment and supplies on six trucks the morning of June 14. They set up the unit in Astrohalla, attached to the Astrodome, and began seeing walk-in patients by 3 p.m. that afternoon. The unit was fully operational in 12 hours, said officials at Wilford Hall.

The mobile hospital staff provides emergency surgery, critical care, adult and pediatric care, obstetrics/gynecology, pharmacy, radiology, laboratory, dental and mental health care.

The team is being housed in Rice University dormitories and is expected to return to San Antonio by the end of the month.

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

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**1 x 2 1/4  
CINEMA**

**4 x 5 DEL RIO  
LIVE**

# Night driving increases likelihood of accidents

By Staff Sgt. Bart Craven  
437 Airlift Wing Safety Office

CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C. – Many people dislike working at night, and the reason is usually simple. It can be harder to function at night than it is in the daytime.

Darkness can make driving to and from work a challenging job. It can be dangerous, too. According to the National Safety Council, fatal vehicle accidents increase sharply during the hours of darkness. In fact, statistics show chances of being involved in some type of accident are about three times greater at night than during daylight hours.

There are things to do, facts to know and techniques to use that can be used to reduce the chance of a mishap and ensure safe nighttime operations.

Safety officials recommend the following steps to make trips to and from work at night safer:

- Before leaving work centers or home, make sure vehicle headlights, taillights and directional signals are operational.
- Keep an operational flashlight and reflective belt attached to an outer garment.
- Make sure headlights and windshields are clean both inside and outside.
- When driving at night, use extreme caution because even familiar surroundings may seem different.
- Do not wear any kind of sunglasses at night; there are no glasses designed to reduce headlight glare at night. Any lens that reduces the brightness of headlights also reduces the light reflected from dimly lit objects at the side of the road, particularly pedestrians.
- When following another vehicle at night, keep low beams on so the other driver will not be blinded.
- Switch lights from high to low beams when an oncoming vehicle is about 500 feet away. Also, when behind another vehicle use low beams within 300 feet of that car's rear.
- Limited vision at night reduces the amount of stopping time when trouble is spotted; reduce speed accordingly.
- Take curves more slowly at night; headlights point straight ahead and shine off the road, which reduces the view of the road considerably.

For more information about safe driving practices, call the 47th Flying Training Wing Safety office at 298-5662.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

**3 x 3 CLASSIC CUTS**

**3 x 7 1/2 VVRMC**

**2 x 2 ROADRUNNER**





Photo by Airman 1st Class Amanda Mills

Senior Airman Dawn Nettles weighs 9-month-old Elizabeth James, daughter of retired Tech. Sgt. Robert James, during a well-baby checkup at the Columbus Air Force Base Clinic recently.

## Senior airman rejoins

**By Airman 1st Class Amanda Mills**

*14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs*

COLUMBUS AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. — A senior airman recently rejoined the military after living civilian life for 15 months.

Senior Airman Dawn Nettles, a medical technician in the 14th Medical Operations Squadron here, left the Air Force in October 1999 after four years of service.

"I was tired," she said. "I wanted to find something new, as well as spend some more time with my son."

But it wasn't as easy as she thought.

"It was tough," the airman said. "My husband was stationed at Lackland, and none of the surrounding hospitals were hiring. Without two incomes, we came into some financial hardships, and so I decided to come back in."

Nettles re-entered the Air Force in January with the same rank she left with and said she is very happy.

"I'm very glad I made this choice," Nettles said. "I love my job, and I really missed everything the Air Force has to offer. Not only do I have a steady paycheck and good benefits, but I was tired of staying at home. Here, I can surround myself with lots of nice people in a good environment."

Tech. Sgt. Kathy Stansberry of the 14th Medical Operations Squadron said she is very pleased that Nettles rejoined.

"She is a much needed asset in an undermanned career field," Stansberry said. "She has a positive attitude, learns quickly and thoroughly completes any task she is given."

Nettles said she does not recommend getting out of the Air Force just because you are "tired of it."

"If you really want to get out of the service, make sure you weigh all your options," she said. "Also make sure you are financially ready, and if you are planning on still working, make sure you have a job already lined up."

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

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**3 x 5 WESTERN COMM**

# New leaders touch down at Laughlin

## Compiled from staff reports

Two new squadron commanders recently blew into town.

Lt. Col. Michael Blaylock assumed command of the 47th Civil Engineer Squadron Monday, and Maj. Donna Mitchell took the reins of the 47th Mission Support Squadron June 13.

Both new squadron commanders expressed their happiness with their new assignment and complemented the excellent Laughlin atmosphere.

"Laughlin is a nice base with a warm atmosphere," said Blaylock.

Blaylock, hailing from Dorchester, S.C., with 16 1/2 years in the service, hopes to improve the quality of the facilities and the infrastructure here. He is looking forward to the challenge.

Mitchell, originally from River Rouge, Mich., with 14 years in the service, also hopes to make a difference here.

"I like Laughlin," she said. "It is a warm, friendly place."

Both officers believe that listening is one of the more important traits of being a good leader.

### 47th Civil Engineer Squadron

**Hometown:** Dorchester, S.C.

**Time in service:** 16 1/2 years

**Education:** Bachelor's in civil engineering, master's in astronautical engineering

**Previous assignments:**

Randolph Air Force Base; Cape Canaveral, Fla.; Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Pope Air Force Base, N.C.; Kunsan Air Base, Korea; and Lackland Air Force Base.



**Blaylock**

**Greatest feat:** Was the project manager for the \$3.8 million repair to the Launch Complex 40 Mobile Service Tower foundation. The project went from design start to construction complete in 88 days.

**Leadership philosophy:** The three L's: listen, learn and lead by example.

**Personal hero:** None

**Favorite quote:** If you are not a liberal when you are 20, you don't have a heart. If you are not a conservative when you are 40, you don't have a brain.

— Winston Churchill.

**Hobbies:** Spending time with my wife and kids, shooting, hunting and collecting gadgets.

**Bad habit:** I like to eat junk food.

### 47th Mission Support Squadron

**Hometown:**

River Rouge, Mich.

**Time in service:** 14 years

**Education:**

Master's degree in public administration, Troy State University; bachelor's degree in psychology, DePauw University

**Previous assignments:** Chanute Air Force Base, Ill; Torrejon Air Base, Spain; Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Mich.; Dyess AFB; U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.; Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base

**Greatest feat:** Officer Training School

**Leadership philosophy:** To listen twice as much as I speak

**Personal hero:** "Loco Parentis" — Cornelia Woodard

**Favorite quote:** "If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything."

**Bad habit:** Caffeine consumption



**Mitchell**

2 x 2 ZOINKS

2 x 3  
Upstagers

2 x 6  
MILLENIUM  
COM.

News Herald Filler

## The *XLer*



Photo by Airman Basic Timothy J. Stein

### **Tech. Sgt. Rob Poteat**

47th Communications Squadron

Plans and Implementation Flight information manager

**Hometown:** Burlington, N.C.

**Family:** Wife, Heidi; daughter, Rachel; son, Zachary

**Time at Laughlin:** 6 years, 7 months

**Time in service:** 19 years, 9 months

**Name one way to improve life at Laughlin:** Get involved in the downtown community and keep a positive attitude.

**Greatest accomplishment:** A great relationship and marriage to my wife

**Hobbies:** Yard work and photography

**Bad habit:** Working too much

**Favorite food:** Anything grilled or barbecued

**Favorite beverage:** Coffee and Pepsi

**If you could spend one hour with any person, whom would it be and why?** Jesus Christ. To ask him face to face to come into my life.

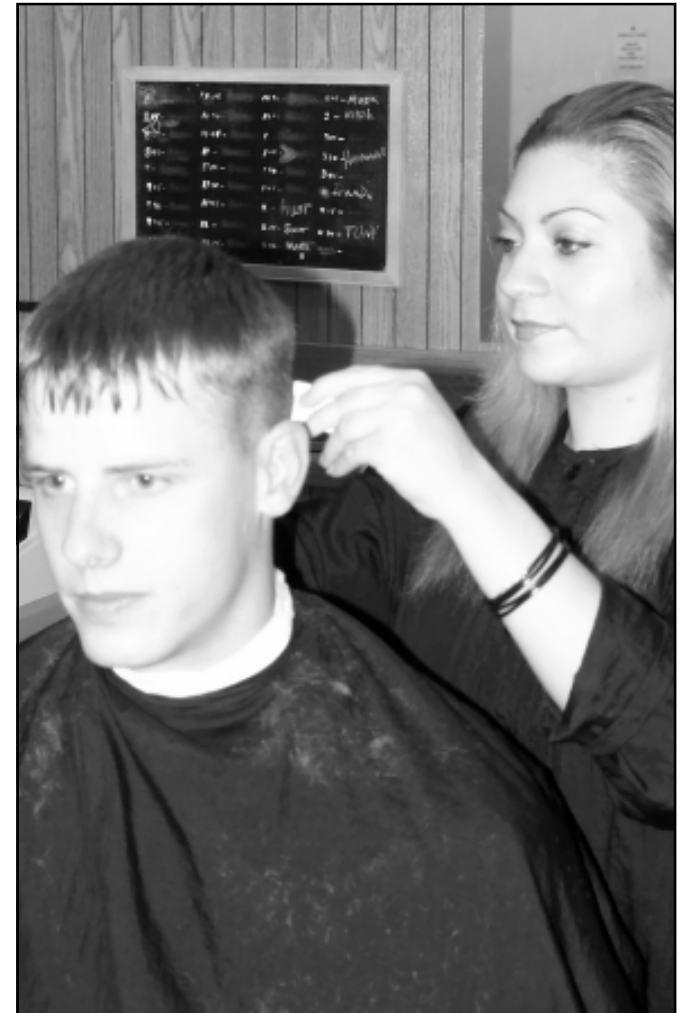


Photo by Airman Basic Timothy Stein

### **Cutting edge**

Raquel Arreola, Operations Training Complex barber shop haircutter, gives 2nd Lt. Nathan Higgins, Laughlin student pilot, a trim at the barber shop Tuesday. The OTC barber shop hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On average, the barber shop gives 20 haircuts daily to Laughlin people.

**2 x 4 LAINGS**

**3 x 4 WAASHN N GO**

## Where are they now?

**Name:** 1st Lt. Christopher Credno

**Class/date of graduation from Laughlin:** Class 00-08

**Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at:**  
C-5, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

**Mission of your current aircraft?** Strategic airlift

**What do you like most about your current aircraft?** Its size and the different and interesting missions we do

**What do you dislike most about your current aircraft?**

Every aircraft has its warts: maintenance and old age.

**What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly?** That being a pilot isn't easy. It takes a lot of hard work, mission preparation and studying.

**What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin?** T-37 formation. It was so much fun!

**What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin?** Always try your hardest. No matter how tough things get, just remember you have the best job in the world. Never give up trying.



(U.S. Air Force photo)



## Please recycle...

## 3 x 10 ARMED FORCES

## Chapel Schedule

### Catholic

#### **Sunday**

-Mass, 9:30 a.m.

-Confession by appointment

-Little Rock Scripture Study, 11 a.m. in Chapel Fellowship Hall

#### **Thursday**

-Choir, 6 p.m.

### Muslim

Dr. Mostafa Salama, call 768-9200

### Jewish

Max Stool, call 775-

4519

### Protestant

#### **Sunday**

-General worship, 11 a.m.

-Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. at the Religious Education Building

#### **Monday**

Student Wives' Fellowship, 7-9 p.m. Call 298-7365.

#### **Wednesday**

- Women's Bible Study, 12:30-2:15 p.m. at chapel

-Choir, 7 p.m. at chapel

**For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.**



Photo by Airman Basic Timothy Stein

Impressive press

Capt. Jo Lindberg, 47th Communications Squadron Information Systems Flight commander, works out on the leg-press machine at the XL Fitness Center Tuesday. Lindberg won first place for bench press in her division at a recent Air Education and Training Command weight-lifting competition at Lackland Air Force Base.

86 FTS crowned volleyball champs

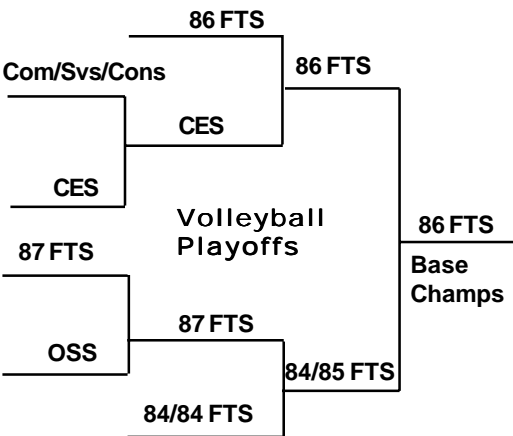
By Tech. Sgt. Reginal Woodruff  
Public affairs

The 86 FTS captured the 2001 Intramural Volleyball Championship with a straight-game victory over the 84/85 FTS at the XL Fitness Center June 14.

The new champs finished the season with an 11-0 record, winning an impressive 22 consecutive games.

“I was very proud of how we overcame the obstacles encountered throughout the season to play every game to the best of [our] abilities,” said Capt. Rick Cox, 86 FTS instructor pilot and team coach. “We really enjoyed every match and look forward to defending the championship next year.”

The 84/85 FTS had a solid season, losing only two games, both to the 86th.



Sports Standings

(As of Wednesday)

Softball

American League

Team	Won	Loss
87 FTS	6	1
OSS	4	3
LSI	5	4
86 FTS	1	6
84/85 FTS	1	6

National League

Team	Won	Loss
Med Group	6	1
CES	5	1
Support	4	3
LCSAM	4	4
East Inc.	3	4
SFS	1	7

Golf

Team	Points
Sim Ops	43.5
OSS	39.5
CES	33.5
87FTS	24.5
Med Group	21.5
LCSAM	20
LSI 1	20
47 FTW	15
SFS	13
LSI 2	2.5

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RIZZO